

Missoula County Public Schools

Students 3331

Concussion Management

The Board recognizes that concussions and head injuries are common injuries suffered by youth athletes participating in organized youth athletic activities and that the risks of catastrophic injuries, chronic mental impairment, or death are significant when a concussion or brain injury is not properly evaluated or managed. The Board recognizes that it is important to take measures to ensure the safety of youth athletes participating in organized youth athletic activities with regard to concussions and head injuries.

A concussion is an injury to the brain arising from blunt trauma, an acceleration force, or a deceleration force, which may involve certain observed or self-reported conditions attributable to the injury, including but not limited to transient confusion, disorientation, impaired consciousness, dysfunction of memory, loss of consciousness or signs of other neurological or neuropsychological dysfunction. Organized youth athletic activities are athletic activities sponsored by a school or the District in which the participants are engaged in an athletic game or competition against another team, club or entity, in practice, tryouts, training exercises, or sports camps, or in preparation for an athletic game or competition.

The District will develop and utilize procedures to inform and educate athletic trainers, coaches, officials, youth athletes, and parents and guardians of the nature and risk of braining injuries, including the effects continuing to play after a concussion that are consistent with guidelines provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, and the Montana High School Association (MHSA).

Annually, the District will provide each youth athlete and the youth's parent/guardian with a copy of the Student-Athlete & Parent/Legal Guardian Concussion Statement issued by MHSA. Prior to practicing or participating in any organized youth athletic activities during each school year, the youth athlete and the youth's parent or guardian must review and sign the Student-Athlete & Parent/Legal Guardian Concussion Statement.

The District shall ensure that all coaches, athletic trainers, officials, including volunteers, will have access to and will complete training regarding concussions and head injuries at least once each school year.

An athletic trainer, coach, or official shall remove a youth athlete from participation in any organized youth athletic activities at the time the youth athlete exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion. Once removed, the youth athlete may not return to the organized youth athletic activity until the youth athlete no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion and has received an evaluation and written clearance from a licensed health care professional that the youth athlete has been evaluated and is capable of safely resuming participation.

Legal References:

Senate Bill 112 Dylan Steigers Protection of Youth Athletes Act

Policy History:

Presented at PN&P Committee on June 26, 2013 and posted for public comment.

Adopted on: August 23, 2013